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Claims

1. A pharmaceutical composition comprising paroxetine methanesulfonate and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier wherein the carrier comprises a water-soluble and/or hydrophilic diluent.

2. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the diluent has a water solubility at 20°C of at least 0.005 mg/ml.

3. A composition according to claim 2 wherein the diluent has a water solubility at 20°C of at least 0.01 mg/ml.

4. A composition according to claim 3 wherein the diluent has a water solubility at 20°C of at least 0.1mg/ml.

5. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble and/or hydrophilic diluent is a carbohydrate diluent.

6. A composition according to claim 5 wherein the carbohydrate diluent is selected from compressible sugar, confectioner's sugar, a dextrate, dextrin, dextrose, fructose, microcrystalline cellulose, silicified microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, powdered cellulose, lactose, maltodextrin, mannitol, sorbitol, sucrose, sugar spheres, lactitol, maltitol, or xylitol or a mixture thereof.

7. A composition according to claim 6 wherein the carbohydrate diluent is selected from lactose, microcrystalline cellulose or mannitol or a mixture thereof.

8. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the diluent is present in an amount ranging from 1 to 99% w/w of the composition.

9. A composition according to claim 8 wherein the diluent is present in an amount of ranging from 20 to 95% w/w of the composition.

10. A composition according to claim 9 wherein the diluent is present in an amount ranging from 40 to 95% w/w of the composition.

11. A composition according to claim 10 wherein the diluent is present in an amount ranging from 80 to 90% w/w of the composition.

12. A composition according to claim 1 further comprising an additional diluent selected from calcium carbonate, calcium sulfate, dibasic calcium phosphate dihydrate or dibasic calcium phosphate or a mixture thereof.

13. A composition according to claim 12 which does not contain dicalcium phosphate in combination with microcrystalline cellulose.

14. A composition according to claim 12 which does not contain dicalcium phosphate.

15. A composition according to claim 12 wherein the diluent admixture comprises at least 20 % by weight thereof of the water-soluble and/ or hydrophilic diluent.

16. A composition according to claim 15 wherein the diluent admixture comprises at least 40 % by weight thereof of the water-soluble and/ or hydrophilic diluent.

17. A composition according to claim 15 wherein the diluent admixture comprises at least 60 % by weight thereof of the water-soluble and/ or hydrophilic diluent.

18. A composition according to claim 15 wherein the diluent admixture comprises at least 80 % by weight thereof of the water-soluble and/ or hydrophilic diluent.

19. A composition according to claim 1 wherein the water soluble and/or hydrophilic diluent is present as the sole diluent.

20. A composition according to claim 1 further comprising a disintegrant.

21. A composition according to claim 20 wherein the disintegrant is selected from starch, methylcellulose, crospovidone, croscarmellose sodium or sodium starch glycollate or a mixture thereof.

22. A composition according to claim 21 wherein the disintegrant is sodium starch glycollate.

23. A composition according to claim 20 wherein the disintegrant is present in an amount up to 30% w/w of the composition.

24. A composition according to claim 23 wherein the disintegrant is present from 1 to 20 % w/w of the composition

25. A composition according to claim 24 wherein the disintegrant is present from 2 to 10 % w/w of the composition.

26. A composition according to claim 1 wherein paroxetine methanesulfonate is in crystalline form.

27. A composition according to claim 26 wherein the paroxetine methanesulfonate has inter *alia* the following characteristic IR peaks: 1208, 1169, 1038, 962, 931, 838 and 546 ± 2 cm^{-1}.

28. A composition according to claim 26 wherein the paroxetine methanesulfonate has *inter alia* the following characteristic IR peaks: 1604, 1194, 1045, 946, 830, 601, 554 and 539 ± 2 cm^{-1}.

29. A composition according to claim 1 comprising 1 to 200mg of paroxetine methanesulfonate per unit dose, calculated on a free base basis.

30. A composition according to claim 29 comprising 10 to 50mg of paroxetine methanesulfonate per unit dose, calculated on a free base basis.

31. A composition according to claim 30 comprising 10, 12.5, 15, 20, 25, 30 or 40mg of paroxetine methanesulfonate per unit dose, calculated on a free base basis.

32. A composition according to claim 1 adapted for oral administration.

33. A composition according to claim 32 which is a tablet or capsule.